the end that the matter must needs have. Then the father Fra Tommaso, her confessor, said to her : * Tell me, daughter, what is the meaning of what thou hast just done ? What dost thou mean ? Let us understand something about it.' But she, like an obedient daughter, answered : * My father, you will soon see two great fishes caught in the nets' ; and said no more. We still by these words did not know what she meant to say ; but, while we were thus in suspense and expecting the end of the affair, one of the virgin's women companions, who lived in the house with her, said: [c] Mother, there is here below Master Gabriele da Volterra of the Friars Minor, with a companion, and Master Giovanni Terzo of the friars of St. Augustine, also with a companion, who wish to come to you.' "

As Catherine was going to meet them, the two came into the room. They sat down, and the others grouped themselves round, as they said that they wished to say nothing to her in secret. Then,[tc] like two furious lions," the Franciscan and the Augustinian in turn began to ply her with the most difficult theological questions, hoping to put her to confusion before her friends and disciples. " But the Holy Spirit, who deserteth none that trust in Him, did not desert this humble handmaiden of His, but granted her so great wisdom and fortitude, that if there had been not only two such men, but even a thousand or ten thousand, she would have overthrown all, and won a magnificent triumph over them, even as that same Holy Spirit said through the mouth of David : *A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand"* All aflame with divine zeal, yet with the utmost reverence for her two opponents, Catherine rebuked their inflated and unprofitable science, their setting their hearts upon the praises of creatures, and spoke so winningly of the love of Christ that the two were instantly converted. Master Gabriele was living in such pomp that in his convent he had made himself one cell out of three, and furnished it so sumptuously that it would have been excessive for a cardinal, including " a most noble bed with a silk covering and curtains round it, and so many other things that, together with his books, they would be worth hundreds of ducats.